Hughes Buried; FBI Confirms Identity

Post 4/8/76

HOUSTON, April 7 (AP)—Howard R. Hughes, whose exploits brought him fabulous wealth and world fame, was buried in an unmarked grave alongside his parents today while the FBI confirmed through fingerprints that it was the body of the billionaire recluse.

About 25 people attended the brief, simple services at an exclusive cemetery west of downtown Houston.

"We bring nothing into this world and we can take nothing out. Remember Thy servant, Howard," said Dean Robert Gibson of Christ Church Cathedral, the oldest Episcopal church in Houston, the city of Hughes' birth. He was a member of the church.

In a one-sentence statement the FBI said: "At the request of the Secretary of the Treasury, the FBI has identified fingerprints made available to the FBI by the medical examiner in Houston, Tex., as being identical to those of Howard Hughes."

About 10 women and 15 men gathered at Glenwood Cemetery for the three-minute service, which had been kept secret from the public. There was no effort to exclude reporters and photographers.

Neither of Hughes' ex-wives attended.

Hughes' body was quickly lowered into the grave in a 1,000-pound, silver-jacketed copper casket that will be covered by a matching vault, funeral home spokesmen said.

Mrs. Frederick Lummis Sr., Hughes' 85-year-old aunt, occupied a front-row seat at the services along with her son, Will Lummis.

The Rev. Mr. Gibson read from the Bible the words of Jesus: "In my Father's house are many mansions: If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

As Hughes was being buried there remained the question of disposition of his vast and far-flung empire.

Arelo Sederberg, a Hughes spokesman in Los Angeles, where Hughes' Summa Corp. has its headquarters, would not comment on whether it will exists to detail disposal of Hughes' aerospace, hotel-casino and airline properties.

When asked what might be considered Hughes' legal residence, Sederberg said, "I can't answer that either. He was a citizen of the United States."

A source close to the Hughes empire said, however, that Hughes' attorneys listed Houston, site of his birth, as his legal residence when they filed a deposition in a recent lawsuit.

The Hughes business empire, meanwhile, continues to operate on a business-as-usual basis.

A company spokesman said overall direction would remain the same temporarily. "Certainly there will be no impact in an immediate sense," said Sederberg.